

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 066903

12
ORIGIN IO-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-02 /005 R

66610
DRAFTED BY: IO/HDC:LNCVANAUGH:DD
APPROVED BY: IO/HDC-EPNOZIGLIA
EA/TB:CLSTERMER
----- 077239
R 031805Z APR 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO USMISSION GENEVA 0000

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 066903

FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK 4652 ACTION SECSTATE INFO DEA HQS
21 MAR

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 4652

DEA HQS PASS DURKIN/EN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, TH
SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO THAI POLICE FOR NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT

REF: STATE 052762

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS - ARE THE THAI SERIOUS?

1. THIS EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THE IMPORTANCE OF COMING TO SOME
DEFINITE CONCLUSION ON "THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE RTG ACTUALLY
SUPPORTS NARCOTICS EFFORTS", TO USE THE PHRASEOLOGY IN THE
REFERENCE, AND THE FACT THAT THERE IS "CLOSE CONGRESSIONAL
INTEREST" IN WHAT ARE THE TRUE INTENTIONS OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT
IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT. IN THIS REGARD, WE BELIEVE IT
PERTINENT TO RECALL THAT WE - AMERICANS AND THAI TOGETHER -
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 066903

HAVE FACED THE CHALLENGE OF COMPLEX AND ENTRENCHED NARCOTICS

TRAFFICKING SYSTEMS AND LONG-ESTABLISHED HIGHLAND OPIUM PRODUCING AND MARKETING ORGANIZATIONS. THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN EXACERBATED BY THE LURE OF HANDSOME PROFITS AND LOW RISK IN AN ECONOMY WHERE MOST PEOPLE - OFFICIALS AND CIVILIANS ALIKE - ARE VERY POOR.

2. WHEN THE US BEGAN COOPERATION WITH THE THAI IN NARCOTICS MATTERS, THERE WAS NO RTG NARCOTICS EFFORT WORTHY OF THE NAME. THERE WAS NO THAI ORGANIZATION WITH SKILLS AND FACILITIES COMMENSURATE WITH THE STAGGERING DIMENSION OF THE PROBLEM.

3. THE PICTURE TODAY IS SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT. CAPABLE ORGANIZATIONS AND GOOD MEN HAVE EMERGED, AS OUR REPORTING HAS EMPHASIZED, ON WHICH CAN BE BASED EFFECTIVE NARCOTICS WORK AND WITH WHOM US AND OTHER NARCOTICS AUTHORITIES DO COOPERATE EFFECTIVELY. PARTLY THIS IS A RESULT OF US ENCOURAGEMENT THROUGH OFFERS OF ADVICE AND MATERIAL AID. BUT IT IS MORE FUNDAMENTALLY A RESULT OF DESIRE OF THE KING AND OF SPECIFIC PERSONALITIES IN TOP LEADERSHIP POSITIONS THAT THAILAND NO LONGER HAVE THE REPUTATION AS A CONDUIT FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS FROM BURMA INTO THE WORLD MARKET.

4. SPECIFICALLY, THIS HAS MEANT THE CREATION OF EFFECTIVE MECHANISMS, THE CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU, THE NARCOTIC SUPPRESSION CENTER AND THE SPECIAL NARCOTICS ORGANIZATION; AND THE DIRECT ASSOCIATION IN NARCOTICS WORK OF UNQUESTIONABLY HONEST AND ABLE PERSONS LIKE GENERAL PRACHUAB, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE TNPD; GENERAL POW SARASIN; AND COLONEL CHAVALIT YODMANEE. AMERICANS WORKING WITH THESE INDIVIDUALS DO - JUSTIFIABLY - FEEL PROUD OF THEIR COOPERATIVE EFFORT.

SPECIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS

5. THE MISSION HAS REPORTED THE RESULTS OF THIS COOPERATION. THE OLD, BLATANT TRAFFICKING INTO THAILAND BY LARGE HORSE AND MULE CARAVANS HAS BEEN SET BACK. THE CARAVANS STILL OPERATE IN BURMA BUT THEY TEND TO BREAK UP ON REACHING THE THAI BORDER AND THE OPIUM IS TRANSFERRED TO BEARERS. THERE MAY YET BE A REVIVAL OF THE CARAVAN TRAFFIC AS TRAFFICKERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 066903

SEEK TO COUNTER RTG EFFORTS. ON THE SEA, THE TRAWLERS TRAFFICKING BETWEEN BANGKOK AND HONG KONG HAVE BECOME FEWER AND FAR MORE WARY. PARTLY AS A RESULT OF THESE EFFORTS, BURMESE OPIUM TRANSITTING THAILAND HAS NOT YET BECOME A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN US CONSUMPTION. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THIS DANGER WAS A MAJOR CONSIDERATION IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE US NARCOTICS EFFORT HERE. THE DANGER STILL EXISTS. THE ESTIMATE FOR THE 1974 BURMA CROP IS IN THE RANGE

360-580 TONS. PRICES FOR RAW OPIUM AND ASSOCIATED PRODUCTS ARE RISING. PRESSURES WILL MOUNT STEADILY TO GET THIS CROP THROUGH THAILAND AND INTO WORLD MARKETS. TECHNIQUES TO CIRCUMVENT THAI-US SUPPRESSION AND CONTROL EFFORTS WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY SKILLED AND SUBTLE. PROFITS FOR THE SUCCESSFUL NARCOTICS HANDLER WILL MOUNT.

6. RESULTS CAN ALSO BE QUANTIFIED IN TERMS OF MAJOR NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS DISRUPTED AND OF SEIZURES OF NARCOTICS. WITHIN THE LAST YEAR THAI POLICE EFFORTS HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT THE IMMOBILIZATION OF THE FOLLOWING MAJOR INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKERS:

(A) LO HSING-HAN, THE INFAMOUS KKY LEADER AND MAJOR NARCOTIC PRODUCER IN THE TRI-BORDER AREA, WAS ARRESTED JULY 17, 1973 BY TNPD. HE IS CURRENTLY BEING TRIED IN RANGOON FOR HIGH TREASON AND ECONOMIC CRIMES.

(B) LU PING-CHIA, A MAJOR NARCOTICS TRAFFICKER WHO HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN SHIPPING DRUGS FROM THAILAND/MALAYSIA/SINGAPORE TO HONG KONG AND OTHER MARKETS, WAS ARRESTED ON A SMUGGLING CHARGE JULY 10, 1973. HE IS AWAITING TRIAL IN BANGKOK.

(C) LAN HU-NAN AND UDOM ASAWAITHIWATANA, TWO OF LU'S ASSOCIATES, WERE ARRESTED WITH HIM AND ARE BEING HELD PENDING TRIAL.

(D) JIMMY YANG, A BURMESE DISSIDENT LEADER AND OPIUM SMUGGLER WITH TIES TO LO HSING-HAN, WAS ARRESTED IN BANGKOK ON JANUARY 7, 1974 IN VIOLATION OF THAI IMMIGRATION LAWS. HE REMAINS IN CUSTODY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 066903

(E) POONSIRI CHANYASAK, A WELL DOCUMENTED TRAFFICKER WHO HAS SUPPLIED THE US MARKET AND WHO IS CONSIDERED A KING-PIN IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN TRAFFICKING, WAS ARRESTED ON MARCH 9, 1974 IN CONNECTION WITH THE SEIZURE OF A HEROIN NO. 4 LABORATORY IN BANGKOK. SUN TING-LUNG AND IP CHONG-CHI, A HONG KONG TRAFFICKER AND HEROIN CHEMIST RESPECTIVELY, WERE ARRESTED AT THE LABORATORY.

THAI POLICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN OPIATE DRUG SEIZURES FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

YEAR	OPIUM	MORPHINE	HEROIN
1970	285 KG	21 KG	155 KG
1971	1,727	19	61

1972	7,585	517	129
1973	14,775	758	216

SINCE BECOMING OPERATIONAL ON JANUARY 1 OF THIS YEAR, THE METROPOLITAN NARCOTICS UNIT (MNU) HAS ARRESTED TWO PERSONS FOR POSSESSING HEROIN FOR EXPORT, ARRESTED 25 SUSPECTS FOR SELLING OR POSSESSING HEROIN FOR SALE, AND APPREHENDED 13 OTHERS FOR HEROIN POSSESSION. AN MNU OFFICIAL HAS REPORTED THAT BANGKOK MUNICIPAL POLICE PRECINCTS, SPURRED BY THE MNUS PROGRESS, HAVE IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS ALONE ACCOUNTED FOR THE ARREST OF 83 HEROIN SUPPLIERS AND WTQE HEROIN CONSUMERS. THIS CONTRASTS WITH AN ALMOST DORMANT ENFORCEMENT POSTURE WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL POLICE PRIOR TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MNU.

SEIZURE OF THE HEROIN LABORATORY ON MARC
E E E E E E E

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, POLICE FORCES, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE066903
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/HDC:LNCVANAUGH:DD
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740075-0916
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740470/aaaacmhk.tel
Line Count: 180
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 052762
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 13 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <01 AUG 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSISTANCE TO THAI POLICE FOR NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT
TAGS: SNAR, TH, US
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005